

ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONER SUPPORT

August 2011

Donation

www.arprisoners.org

Issue number 7



Illustration: Dan Wadham



ABOUT ARPS

Animal Rights Prisoner Support (ARPS) is a voluntary group which supports those campaigners who, as a result of their efforts to prevent innocent animals being caged, abused and killed, are themselves jailed because of their selfless acts on behalf of those who cannot speak up for themselves.

We live in a world where profit and property are valued over life and compassion, where those who try to stop suffering are seen as criminals and terrorists because they threaten the economic system and the status quo. As long as this continues to be the case, it is vital we support those activists who make the ultimate sacrifice.

Once in prison they are often isolated, separated from family and friends and from other campaigners. This is a calculated part of the process of imprisonment, intended to be a punishment, and a deterrent to others. Yet these are good people who have acted out of compassion rather than for their own personal gain.

ARPS supports the prisoners in various ways. Our main aim is to break through this isolation and provide the prisoners with support, morally and practically, keeping them in touch with the outside world and enabling them to continue to be a valuable part of the movement.

As well as this newsletter, we have a website and social networking site where we publicise the plights of the prisoners, publish their prison addresses and encourage supporters and sympathisers from around the world to write them letters and cards, and let them know they are not forgotten. This is essential for the upkeep of the prisoners' morale and keeping them in touch with what is going on in the outside world.

We also publish letters, articles and news directly from the prisoners, in this newsletter and on the internet, providing the prisoners with a forum to share their news, thoughts, views and feelings with the rest of the compassionate community, and giving

supporters and friends an invaluable insight into what life is like for animal rights prisoners.

We are in regular contact with the prisoners and friends, and endeavour to support them in various practical ways and look after their interests in whatever way we can.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Write to the prisoners. See below for more information.
- Subscribe to our quarterly newsletter. The newsletter contains letters, photos, articles and news from the prisoners. To receive your copy by post, send your name, address and cheque/PO for £10 or €12 (donation towards costs), payable to "ARPS" to the address below.
- Subscribe to our email list. We will send out updates from time to time about new prisoners or important changes regarding the prisoners. Send us your email address if you want to be kept informed: info@arprisoners.org
- Donate. In order to support the prisoners, we rely on support from other campaigners. ARPS is made up entirely of unpaid volunteers, all donations will be used to fund our important work on behalf of the prisoners. Cheques/POs, payable to "ARPS" can be sent to the address below. You can also pay regular donations by Standing Order (a form is on the back cover) and/or via PayPal (<http://www.arprisoners.org/donations/>).

ARPS (Animal Rights Prisoner Support Group)
BM ARPS, London WC1N 3XX

WRITING TO PRISONERS

Receiving letters from the outside helps to stop prisoners feeling isolated and other prisoners are always amazed at the amount of mail animal rights prisoners receive.

When you first start up

correspondence with a prisoner, try not to ask specific questions, so prisoners don't feel under pressure to give a response. Please don't feel offended if you don't get a reply, or if a reply is a long time coming, as animal rights prisoners often receive large amounts of mail. They also frequently have ongoing legal matters to deal with, which can be a lengthy process. Consideration must be given to the fact that prisoners may not have time or that they may not feel like writing.

Keep letters positive and avoid angry rants. Talk about your campaigns, what is going on in your daily life or just send a bright card with a short note or a favourite quote. You can buy small packets of cards from many stationers and card shops which are really useful for keeping in touch with the prisoners.

WRITE TO UK ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS VIA EMAIL

Did you know that it is possible to write to many prisoners in the UK via the "emailaprisoner" service for just 30p per letter, cheaper, quicker and more convenient than conventional mail. Most UK prisons are either part of the scheme or are set to join in the near future.

You pay in advance and register with an email address and password. It works really well, usually prisoners get the letter the same day or the next day. They can't reply via email, but apparently this is in the pipeline, as well as the opportunity to send pictures.

It's a really great way to keep our comrades in touch with the outside world. For example, if you see some news online or in an email, you can just copy and paste it into an email and send it directly to the prisoner, with some news of your own perhaps. Or why not put a few stories and some news together, as you get 2,500 characters per email.

These prisoners can currently receive emails:

Gregg Avery (HMP Coldingley)
Natasha Avery (HMP Send)
Mel Broughton (HMP Bullingdon)
Gavin Medd-Hall (HMP Coldingley)
Heather Nicholson (HMP Foston Hall)

Kerry Whitburn (HMP Lowdham Grange)
Sarah Whitehead (HMP Downview)

Soon it should be possible to email all of them. On the website there's a list of prisons you can write to. Please ask them to introduce the scheme as

well.
For more details see
<http://www.emailaprisoner.com>

A message from Jonny Ablewhite to his supporters



My Dear Vegan Friends,

On 6th July my mum died after losing a swift and desperate battle with cancer. Being locked up in prison over these last few, torturous weeks has been unbearable. I'm truly devastated but mindful of your concern. I'm feeling too dilapidated to say much more. My loving thanks to you for your support.
For the Animals,
For My Dear Mum, Peggy.

Vegan Love, Jonny x



NOTICE BOARD

Gregg and Natasha Avery

Can you help?

In November we are both due to be released.

Can you or do you know anyone who can please help us with the following?

- Paid employment
- A motor vehicle (free or cheap)
- Accommodation (free or cheap. Any areas considered)

If you can help then just contact either of us at our prison address. If you are not sure if it's suitable then just ask us. Your help would be most appreciated.

Thank you.

Contents

| |
|---|
| A message from Jonny Ablewhite, 3 |
| Heather Nicholson's letter, 4 |
| Philosophy and Activism by Mel Broughton, 4 |
| Sarah Whitehead's letter, 5 |
| Dan Wadham's letter, 6 |
| Support the cause! Prisoners' merchandising, 7 |
| UK prisoners, 8 |
| International prisoners, 9 |
| Walter Bond's letter, 10 |
| If a Tree Falls Film, 11 |
| Kerry Whitburn's letter, 12 |
| A message from Walter Bond, 13 |
| The Spanish 12 - Activism is not terrorism!, 14 |
| Gregg Avery's letter, 15 |
| Natasha Avery's letter, 16 |
| Steve Murphy's letter, 17 |
| Animal Liberation: Abolition by Walter Bond, 18 |

Heather Nicholson's letter July 2011



Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for your continued, wonderful support. The kind words and love I have been given I will remember for the rest of my life. Your letters inspire me. Foston Hall continues to treat me fairly, but the "outside interference" is beyond a joke now. "They" have ordered it that I must stay in closed conditions and not go to open prison at all. Like the other animal rights prisoners have said, we watch all sorts of dangerous people who have committed serious violent crimes waltz off to open prison. It really is disgusting. Anyway, I only have just over a year to do. I'm definitely developing a "whatever" attitude now. That doesn't mean I won't fight these decisions through my solicitors since I feel it is important that they

are not allowed to act illegally and to treat us differently. If I wrote a list of all the good things in my life it would run for hundreds of pages and the bad things would be barely a couple of lines. As always, news of animals being saved brightens up my life.

All of the animals I look after here, are very well and are enjoying the sunshine. Casey (the blue and gold macaw) is such a character and not only does he call my name about twenty times a day but has started saying "Have you got the keys?" and "Put the kettle on". I adore him.

Thanks again to all of you who write, send money and stamps, and visit me. You help to keep me strong.

Lots of love,
Heather,xxx

Ps. This is a quote from a book I'm reading called "Dark horses and Black Beauties" by Melissa H. Pierson. It's about a woman she met who rescues horses.

"She seems to have given it all away years ago (Patience) and has no desire to replenish the store. It is a patience-sapping business, caring so much that you hurt all the time, that you can't sleep for the blood and flesh hanging in tatters and the screams of pain and the dead eyes that stare at you in your dreams. This is what happens once you look at the pictures; it is what happens when you know what really happens."

Lots and lots of love,

Heather,xxx

Philosophy and Activism by Mel Broughton, July 2011

I've recently been reading the second of a new series of titles, published by Palgrave Macmillan, in its 'animal ethics' series. With more than a dozen titles due to cover all aspects of animal rights issues and philosophy, it's another welcome addition to the canon of animal rights literature.

However, these new publications also raise an important question. Why is there such a gulf between the academics and the grassroots activists? This is especially difficult to understand when they represent flip sides of the same coin. I understand



there are one or two notable exceptions, but nevertheless, for a movement that faces such an array

of powerful vested interests, surely there is a strong case for a much greater understanding on both sides.

Let's get down to basics - the animal rights movement is about the liberation of animals and ultimately a change in their legal status that stops humans treating them as 'things' or 'property'. In its relatively short life, the modern animal rights movement has been nourished by philosophers who have applied their academic disciplines to interpreting what animal rights means. We are now in a period in which academics, researchers in animal behaviour and legal scholars

are producing ever more exhaustive and potentially ground-breaking treatises on behalf of exploited and abused animals.

For the grass-roots activists however, the political/legal landscape has grown increasingly hostile and for some, dangerous. And let's not forget, this week a Conservative MP who voted in favour of a ban on wild animals in circuses, stood up in parliament and said he was 'threatened' by the Prime Minister's office for his continued support for the ban. For sure, the threat related to his job, but none the less it speaks volumes about the government's attitude to any forthcoming legislation as a step towards recognising the rights of animals.

But it's the grassroots activists that take the message of animal rights to the public. It's the grassroots activists

who have to deal with the legal and media hostility, and ultimately it's the grassroots activists that act as the lightning rod in demanding an end to animal abuse.

So why do the academics and philosophers find it necessary to so often distance themselves from the activists on the ground? The usual excuse is not wanting to be associated with 'direct action', but law breaking is not the default position of the animal rights movement. Many thousands of animal rights activists have, week in and week out, demonstrated, picketed, shouted or leafleted in public places on behalf of exploited and abused animals. In many respects these very same activists can take the credit for raising the profile of the animal rights question. As good as some of the academic works on animal rights are, it's a fair bet that more people

have come across an animal rights demonstration than read a book about it.

There is a real need in these times for everyone in the ar movement to think carefully about what happens next. No one can doubt that recent years have seen government encouraged by business and academia take a big stick to the animal rights movement. It is also quite clear that it's not just so-called 'extremists' who are on the receiving end, there is enough evidence that the very philosophy of animal rights is the enemy to be vanquished. It is because of this threat that the philosophical and academic wing of the animal rights movement needs to at least understand and recognise the genuine motives of the grassroots activists.

Mel

Sarah Whitehead's letter July 2011

Hi everyone,

One year left to go now and it will fly by and I'll be out and less of a burden to you all! Thank you once again for all your wonderful letters and gifts of stamps and writing paper. I really do appreciate all of you.

This move to Downview is probably the best decision I've ever made! It makes me realise quite how "high security" Bronzefield is. You had to have movement ships and agreement by security to go anywhere – here I made them laugh today when I told an officer I was leaving the wing. She looked at me as if to say "Why are you telling me? The gate is open, you know." This prison is very much geared towards resettlement and has a very different atmosphere. I have been asked if I want a job in the library (no need to ask twice!) and there are loads of courses and opportunities. I'm continuing with my Open University degree plus a course to teach English to foreign nationals, something I loved doing at Bronzefield and really want to continue.

The horror and suffering continues in the world. I'm torn apart at the coverage of the desperate situation in Africa – it's unbearable to see the skeletal children and animals, I want to do anything I can to help. I hear

criticism in the animal rights movement that a human aid charity doesn't do anything about animals – of course they don't, and animal charities don't do anything about starving humans either. We need everyone to tackle the mess in the world. If we can't feel compassion for fellow humans, how can we ever expect them to care about animals? True compassion encompasses the tiniest mouse in a research laboratory to the frantic mother begging for food for her starving baby in a refugee camp. We can and should care about both.

Thank you to my angels looking after my animals - how can I ever repay you? Thank you to each and every one of you who writes and puts up with me. I know the task to help everyone and everything seems too much to ask, but I know we will never stop fighting and caring – compassion



in action always.

Please support the Brooke organisation (Brooke Hospital for Horses) for their fantastic work in the Middle East with animal welfare, Feline Care (home to 140 unwanted cats and a very dedicated caring group) and Action Aid. Thank you. Lots of loves as always – you are all wonderful!

Sarah
xxx

P.S. Liverpool's best season coming up!
You read it here first.

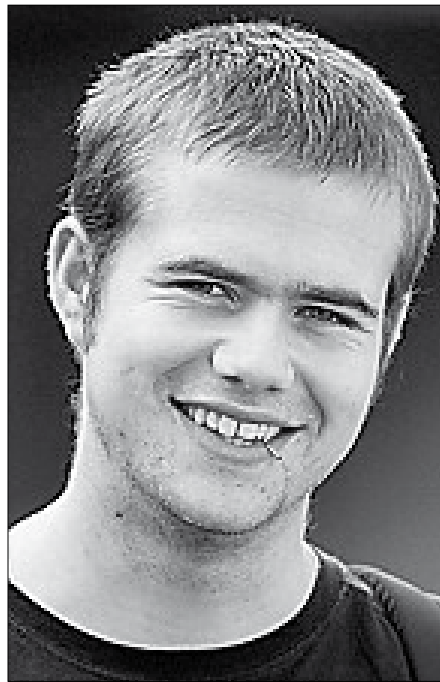
Dan Wadham's letter July 2011

Dear Everyone,

By the time you will get to read this, I will have been released from HMP Camp Hill. Or should I say... transferred back to HMP Great Britain, the crazy police state which many of us call "home".

I've not always managed to find the words to say in this newsletter throughout my sentence, but I do feel the need to send you something before my release. Firstly, I send a huge hug of love and solidarity to everyone who has ever supported me, and I'm deeply sorry that some of you have not received the same from me in return. Particularly I want to hug everyone who supported Sea Shepherd for the Marathon I did - it still makes me feel really incredulous to know how much love there is out there for our oceans and wild life.

I also want to send a warm hug to all the Liberation prisoners still encaged in the UK and around the world - I have so much respect and support



for every one of you. Never give up! Finally, to those of you still out there fighting with passion against the capitalist bastards intent on killing and exploiting every last creature on earth - with the exception of themselves of course - I also want

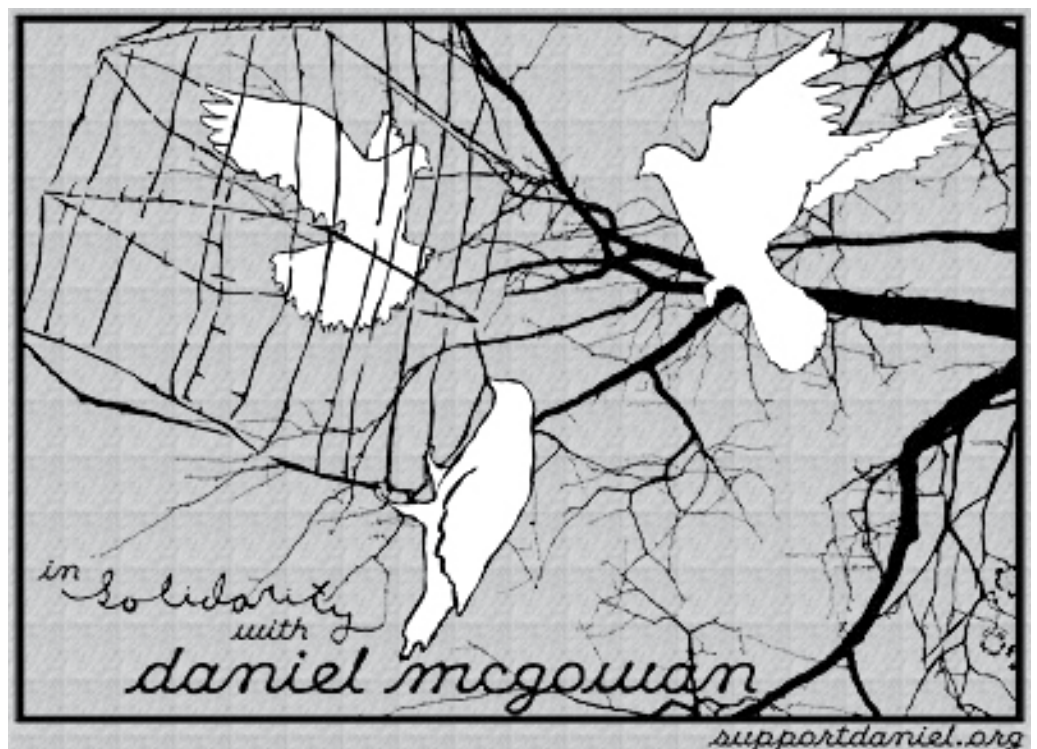
to say something: You all inspire me more than I could ever say with words. I do not believe in heroes but if I did, then you people would be mine. I really hope that you all take great comfort from the knowledge that your efforts are making real changes to real lives.

Sadly, as we all know too well, there is so much left for us to fight for in this world. So I hope that whenever you see the pictures or watch the films that we're all too familiar with, the images of violence and exploitation being experienced by animals, by human beings and by the earth - I hope that, just for a few seconds, you can try to imagine what it must be like for the individuals caught up in those moments of terror and pain. No matter how hard it is, just try to imagine that moment for them, and then ask yourself just one thing: "If that were me, what would I want to happen?"

Love,
Dan.

Support the cause! Daniel McGowan's, Marie Mason's, Walter Bond's and Steve Murphy's merchandising

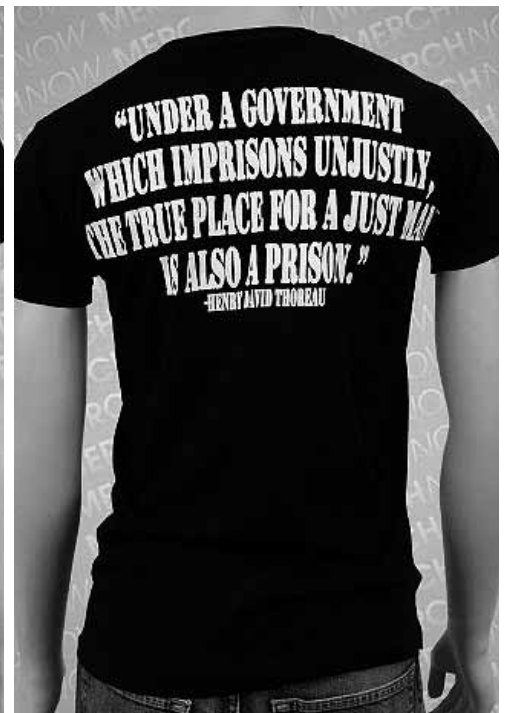
Support Daniel McGowan T-shirt \$15 <http://www.supportdaniel.org/morehelp/shirts.php>



Support Marie Mason T-shirt £18 <http://supportmariemason.org/merchandise/>



Support Steve Murphy T-shirt \$15 <http://motive.merchnow.com/products/127717>



\$10 full set includes shipping <http://www.supportsteve.org/>



*continued on
page 19*

UK prisoners (Updated 28.07.2011)

Jonny Ablewhite (A5750AH)

HMP Manchester, 1 Southhall St, Manchester, M60 9AH

Jonny has been inside since September 2005 and is serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the owners of Newchurch Guinea Pig Farm, which has now closed down.

Birthday: 27th January

What you can send: Postal orders made out to NOMS. Please write Jonny's name/number and sender details on reverse.

Gregg Avery (A4874AD)

HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX

Gregg was remanded in May 2007 and sentenced in January 2009 to 9 years for conspiracy to blackmail in connection with the SHAC campaign.

Birthday: 5th December

What you can send: Stamps (12 in letter), SAEs, cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Headquarters' with Gregg's name and number and sender's details on reverse.

Natasha Avery (A5180AD)

HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey GU23 7LJ

Natasha was remanded in May 2007 and sentenced in January 2009 to 9 years for conspiracy to blackmail in connection with the SHAC campaign.

Birthday: 28th December

What you can send: Cheques/postal orders made out to 'HM Prison Service' with Natasha's name/number and sender's details on reverse. Stamps & an SAE. Also stationery and blank cards.

Mel Broughton (A3892AE)

HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Bicester, Oxon OX25 1WD

Mel was remanded on 14 December 2007 and was sentenced on 13th February 2009 to 10 years for animal rights related offences against Oxford University animal lab.

On 13th July 2010, at his re-trial, Mel was found guilty of conspiracy to commit arson. He has to serve the remainder of his 10 year sentence.

Birthday: 5th July

What you can send: Cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMPS' with Mel's name/number and sender's details on reverse. Stamps, writing paper and envelopes.

Gavin Medd-Hall (A3624AD)

HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX

In January 2009 Gavin was sentenced to 8 years for conspiracy to blackmail in connection with the SHAC campaign.

Birthday: 20th March

What you can send: Stamps (12 in letter), SAEs, cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Headquarters' with Gavin's name and number and sender's details on reverse. (Please remember that Gavin has poor eyesight and will appreciate if you write in clear, large writing).

Heather Nicholson (A3158AJ)

HMP Foston Hall, Foston, Derby, Derbyshire DE65 5DN

Heather was remanded in May 2007 and sentenced in January 2009 to 11 years for conspiracy to blackmail in connection with the SHAC campaign.

Birthday: 30th January

What you can send: Cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMPS' with Heather's name/number and sender's details on the back. Stamps & an SAE. Also stationery and blank cards.

Dan Wadham ** Released 20th July 2011 **

Kerry Whitburn (TB4886)

HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7DA

Kerry has been inside since September 2005, and is serving 12 years for conspiracy in connection with the Newchurch Guinea Pigs Campaign.

Birthday: 18th April

What you can send: Stamps, envelopes, writing paper; postal orders/cheques made out to 'HMP LOWDHAM GRANGE' with Kerry's

name/number and sender's details on reverse.

Sarah Whitehead (A8369CE)

HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PD

On the 25.10.2010 Sarah was sentenced to 6 years for conspiracy to blackmail HLS. Birthday: 12th February

What you can send: Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor' with Sarah's name/number and sender's details on reverse. Books, stationery, stamps; an SAE.

Please send SAEs when you write.

Also please do not mention anything sensitive or illegal as all mail will be read by prison staff.

International Prisoners (Updated 28.07.2011)

Walter Bond #2011-03339

Davis County Jail, PO Box 130,
Farmington UT 84025-0130

Birthday: 16th April

Support sites:

www.supportwalter.org

www.negotiationisover.com

Walter Bond is an abolitionist animal liberation activist who was arrested on July 23, 2010 after being tricked by his brother in a sting operation set up by the FBI and ATF. On February 11, 2011, Walter was sentenced to a 5-year prison term for the A.L.F. "Lone Wolf" arson of the Sheepskin Factory in Denver. In addition, Walter has pled guilty to federal charges in Utah related to the arsons of the Tandy Leather Factory and Tiburon (foiegras restaurant) and will be sentenced on September 19, 2011. Walter's experiences as a 19-year old slaughterhouse construction worker propelled him into veganism and a life focused on ending our culture's total enslavement and exploitation of other animals and the natural world. As a prisoner of war, Walter continues to influence and motivate other activists dynamically via his essays and personal statements, news of which has speedily traversed the globe over the internet. His entire philosophy and program of action is centered on these six words "Animal Liberation, Whatever It May Take!"

Mail regulations to this jail include: No oversize envelopes (regular cards and letters ok), no glue, stickers, tape, glitter, Wite Out, paint, lipstick, metallic ink, stain, perfume, post it notes, rubber stamps, stains, staples, paper clips, postage stamps, blank envelopes or blank paper, no polaroid photos, no photos larger than 3" x 5" (cannot be sexual or criminal in nature). Books must new and sent directly from a publisher or distributor, a few pages of internet printouts ok, nothing sent can include a calendar, return address must include sender's full name. When you write to Walter, ask him what books he would like.

Nathan Block #36359-086

FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road,
Lompoc, CA 93436, USA.

Charges: Unrepentant eco-warrior convicted for the arsons of a SUV dealership and a genetic engineering tree farm in Oregon under the banner of ELF. Betrayed by all but 2 of his co-defendants, he is currently serving

7 years 8 months and is scheduled for release in 2012.

For more information: www.ecoprisoners.org/nathanjoyanna.htm
Email support:

solidaritywithsadieandexile@gmail.com

Birthday: 6th March

Kevin Kjonaas ** Released to halfway house - 3rd August 2011 **

2825 E. Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406, USA

Sentenced 6 years. (One of the US SHAC 7)

Support page: www.shac7.com/kevin

Birthday: 31st October

Adrian Magdaleno Gonzalez

Adrian Magdaleno Gonzalez, a university student of 22 years, has been sentenced to 7 years 11 months and five days (he was detained last February) at the Reclusorio Norte del Distrito Federal Prison.

The charges are threatening the social peace and damage to private property; he was linked to a bomb attempt at the Bank Banamex (sponsors of bullfighting) in September 2009 causing serious damage and also for a bomb on the subway construction in Mexico City, which is destroying wild ecosystems.

For more information or to send letters of support, email us at newsletter@arprisoners.org

Steve Murphy #39013-177

FCI Beaumont Medium, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 26040, Beaumont, TX 77720 USA

Steve Murphy is a lifelong dedicated environmental, human and animal rights activist. In 2009, Steve was arrested and charged with an ELF action against urban sprawl that included a failed arson attempt in an uninhabited housing development construction site and the decommissioning of a tractor. Steve refused to name names and took a noncooperation plea deal. On January 12, 2010 Steve pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges, and was sentenced April 5, 2010 to 5 years in federal prison.

Steve has had some trials during his time away from us, though he

maintains a positive outlook on life. Steve would appreciate letters and cards, encouraging words, and reading material.

Birthday: 3rd September

Support Page: www.supportsteve.org

Marie Jeanette Mason

#04672-061

FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.

Marie was sentenced on 5th February 2009 to an outrageous 21 years and 10 months imprisonment for ELF/ALF actions.

www.freemarie.org

Birthday: 26th January

Eric McDavid #16209-097

FCI Victorville, Medium II, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA.

Eric was sentenced to just under 20 years imprisonment for conspiring to damage corporate and government property. (Part of an FBI sting operation)

Birthday: 7th October

www.supporteric.org

Daniel McGowan #63794-053

FCI Terre Haute – CMU, P.O. Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808, USA.

Sentenced to seven years imprisonment for his part in two arsons and his role in an ELF/ALF conspiracy.

Birthday: May

www.supportdaniel.org

Joyanna Zacher #36360-086

FCI Dublin, Federal Correctional Institution, 5701 8th St – Camp Parks, Unit E, DUBLIN, CA 94568, USA.

Charges: Unrepentant eco-warrior convicted for the arsons of a SUV dealership and a genetic engineering tree farm in Oregon under the banner of ELF. Betrayed by all but 2 of her co-defendants, she is currently serving 7 years 8 months and is scheduled for release in 2012.

Birthday: 25th January

Email support:

solidaritywithsadieandexile@gmail.com

Walter Bond's letter July 2011

Dear ARPS,

Thank you so much for publishing my 'Why I'm Vegan' articles in the last newsletter! I've been meaning to write a letter specifically for ARPS but have been super busy (as busy as you can be in jail) with animal liberation activism. In Colorado I was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for burning down The Sheepskin Factory after which time I was taken by airplane all around the country 'in transit' to Utah. I'm currently dealing with my last two arson charges and Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act charges. I've been as busy as ever writing articles about animal liberation, responding to supporter mail and doing interviews. It's uncertain what the future holds for me and how long my ultimate prison sentence will be. However that is all secondary to what is truly important. This earth and the animals suffer the worst abuses of human greed and injustice. As their self-proclaimed defenders, the well being of our animal relations is, or should be, our prime imperative. And I personally feel responsible to

set a positive example of continued activism even if I can only carry on in the struggle with my pencil and paper. Still I have a voice, as do we all and a responsibility (as do we all) to use that voice for the greatest good. In the county jail I'm now in and will be in for the next few months I am not able to receive the ARPS



Newsletter (but I'm sure I will be able to in the next facility). The last issue I read I remember feeling a sense of comradeship. Reading the letters and names and prison addresses of caring and compassionate activists from around the world always hits home that I am never alone. Recently I read the book, 'From Dusk 'Till

Dawn' by Keith Mann. Reading those accounts of the early days and actions of the Animal Liberation Front was amazing! When I think about how many brave and life saving campaigns have been, and still are undertaken by the warriors of animal liberation, or the sacrifices of far better people than myself, such as Barry Horne, I am all at once awed and proud to play my small part in this movement. I am also reminded that it does not end. As long as there is an animal in a cage, we fight for their total freedom. As long as Mother Earth is seen as a commodity, as nothing more than raw material for human use,

we fight! I don't know if I will ever see the day of animal Liberation that we fight for, but I hope someone does. As for me I'll keep struggling for that day in any way I can because it's worth it. Not for us, for others. Animal Liberation, whatever it may take! Regards,
Walter Bond

Time for Action! Walter Bond asks you to write to the judge!!

Walter is facing charges related to Animal Liberation Front activity in the Salt Lake City area. Sentencing is set for Monday, September 19.

Write a letter today to Judge Stewart, requesting the minimum sentence for Walter Bond. Your letter will help to give a more 3-dimensional and personal perspective on the positive character attributes Walter possesses and how highly he is valued by his friends and associates. The judge who handled Walter's case in Denver made a point to say that she read over 50 letters people like you and me sent her way before handing down the minimum penalty.

Address a formal business letter to:

The Honorable Judge Ted Stewart
United States District Court
District Of Utah
Chamber #148
350 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Include your address and the date. The salutation is, "Dear Judge Stewart:" and the reference is "United States of America v. Walter Bond."

IMPORTANT: DO NOT MAIL YOUR LETTER DIRECTLY TO JUDGE STEWART. Please send this letter to Walter's attorney, who will deliver all the letters to the Judge himself.

Nathan Crane, Esq.
STIRBA & ASSOCIATES

215 South State Street, Suite 750
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Finally, please mail a copy of your letter to Walter as well, to keep him informed:

Walter Bond
2011-03339
Davis County Jail
PO Box 130
Farmington UT 84025-0130

Tell Judge Stewart why you think Walter Bond deserves his leniency. By doing this, you will actually increase Walter's chances of a receiving the minimum.

Thanks everybody!

If A Tree Falls Film

Winner of the U.S. Documentary Editing Award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, IF A TREE FALLS is a feature-length documentary that offers a behind-the-curtain look at the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), the radical environmental group that the FBI calls America's "number one domestic terrorist threat." Centering on the story of Daniel McGowan, an ELF member who participated in two multi-million-dollar arsons against Oregon timber companies, the film investigates the origins of the ELF in America and explores how a working class kid from Queens found himself facing life in prison for "eco-terrorism." Using never-before-seen archival footage and intimate interviews from all the players — including ELF cell members and the prosecutor and detective who were chasing them — IF A TREE FALLS weaves an intriguing and suspenseful story that asks hard questions about environmentalism, activism, and the way we define terrorism in America today.

If a Tree Falls is distributed by Oscilloscope Laboratories and will screen nationwide this summer. For more information and screening times please visit <http://ifatreefallsfilm.com/screenings.html> And check out the trailer online: <http://trailers.apple.com/trailers/independent/ifatreefalls>

Synopsis

On December 7th, 2005, federal agents conducted a nationwide sweep of radical environmentalists involved with the Earth Liberation Front -- an organization the FBI has called America's "number one domestic terrorism threat." IF A TREE FALLS: A STORY OF THE EARTH LIBERATION FRONT is the remarkable story of the group's rise and fall, told through the transformation and radicalization of one of its members, Daniel McGowan. Part coming-of-age tale, part cops-and-robbers thriller, the film interweaves a chronicle of McGowan facing life in prison with a dramatic investigation of the events that led to his involvement with the ELF. Using never-before-seen archival footage

and intimate interviews -- with cell members and with the prosecutor and detective who were chasing them -- IF A TREE FALLS asks hard questions about environmentalism, activism, and the way we define terrorism.

Less

Genre: Documentary
Director: Marshall Curry, Sam Cullman
Run Time: 90 minutes



Daniel McGowan

Kerry Whitburn's letter July 2011

Helloooooooooooooo! Waheeeeey!
This will be my last appearance in
ARPS' newsletters, as by the time
you are reading this letter, I will have
weeks left to serve. Yes, not years or
months, but weeks! And you know
what? I cannot fuckin' wait! Forgive

the language,
but hey, as I
write this letter I
have 3 months
left to serve and
I'm beginning
to feel excited.
Well, after being
in prison for
nearly six years,
I'm bound to feel
excitement at
having such a
short time left.
Even with the
outrageous (but
unsurprising)
licence
conditions the
government
is attempting
to impose, I
still can't help
thinking and
feeling positively.
I generally am a
positive person
anyway, and due
to my character
I refuse to allow
the strict licence
conditions to
dampen my
spirit. Besides,
also due to
my character,
(which contains
an attribute of
being a stubborn
and annoying
pest if I believe
an injustice is
occurring!) I
have refused to merely

accept conditions – such as having
no contact with anyone involved in,
connected to, or supportive of animal
rights campaigns – and I am fighting
them by means of a solicitor. So
hopefully by the time you are reading
this, that particular condition will no
longer exist. My probation officer has
accepted that it 'appears' unfair and

it will now be reviewed. But if it is not
lifted, I will continue to challenge it.

Upon release I am to reside in a
probation hostel for two months with
a 7pm – 7am curfew for the first two

risk assessment can be completed.
“ So what the fuck have I been in
prison for six years (upon my release)
then, if throughout my punishment
a complete risk assessment has
not been possible? Oh, sorry, silly

me... I forgot. I've
not been here as
a punishment,
I've been here
to undergo a
rehabilitation
programme so I
can return to the
community as an
upstanding and
respected member
who conforms to
whatever the
latest social
norm or socially
acceptable attitude
is! Hmmm... NO
THANKS! Prison
has in a way been
a huge punishment
for me as I have
been away from
EVERYONE and
EVERYTHING
I love and need
in life. I'm not
a materialistic
person at all, but I
need my life back
with all its natural
and beneficial
materials such as
love, affections,
pleasures,
passions,
friendships,
compassion, fun,
tears, laughter, true
communications,
depth, intensity,
understanding...
all that comes from
being lucky and
privileged enough
to share a life with
a beautiful partner

and many amazing and special
friends. I miss not being able to smell
and see and enjoy nature, such as
going for a walk in the woods or
forest, or sitting on a high wall on a
sunny clear day, or simply walking
ANYWHERE in heavy rain on a cold
and windy day, or experiencing the
absolute pleasure of being in the
presence of animals and being able



weeks. I will also be subjected to
'extra' probation meetings and visits
from the supervising police officer
involved in my licence supervision. I
do have a home address to return to,
but it seems I am required to reside
in a hostel under strict conditions in
order for: "Intelligence to be built up
in the first few weeks so a complete

to witness their unique and untamed personality and character. So yes, even though I haven't been punished in the prison by anybody, the fact that I lost my freedom for six years was punishment.

But has prison changed me?

Fundamentally, no! And no doubt any establishment/government informer, who may read my statement will invent an even higher MAPPA level to manage me. I am currently rated as a MAPPA level 3, management level 3 (I imagine anybody who has shown compassion to exploited and abused animals will be rated as upon release.) which is the highest level available and usually reserved for the most violent/dangerous people, or for- wait for it – TERRORISTS! Anyway, back to my point! Prison has only slightly changed me in the minimum of ways. For example, before I was arrested and charged in 2005, it used to niggle me if somebody – anybody – I didn't know would verbally abuse me or make a negative comment about me. Well, I would think: "Who does he/she think he/she is when he/she doesn't even know me?" But now I just think: "T-W-A-T!" Seriously, now I do not care what strangers perceive me as. People who I know - and who know me - perceive me and treat me in a very positive way and that's what matters. Also, I believe that I've become more aware of, or attuned to, individuals with deep rooted self-perceptions which cause them to act in certain ways. For a long time, since my early twenties really, I've been aware of why people act/react in certain ways –whether it is a family situation, or money, or work issues influencing their behaviour. In my late twenties I trained to be a mental health nurse and gained an even deeper understanding of the hows and whys of people's personality, thought patterns, behaviours, etc.

and I gained valuable experience from working in mental health wards. Yet many prisoners don't act/react in certain ways because of deep rooted feelings connected to life experience, but due to self-perceptions based on how they view themselves and how they should be. For example, somebody like me with long hair, slim build (OK skinny!), pierced nose, tongue and ear, wearing Ethical Wares boots and jogging bottoms and a no logo t-shirt does not slot into the psyche of somebody who has a 'particular' image to maintain. So a big cheery "HIYAAAA" from me can tend to send some prisoners scurrying for cover in the safety of a game of poker contested by the brotherhood! Whenever I do receive such reactions now (which occur depending on which wing I may be on) I make an extra effort of extending my warm and hearty greeting to such people with even more gusto and wilfulness! Anyway, I digress, sorry!

Another slight change in me is a deeper perception of how people's self-conditioned image can, to be blunt, turn them into the most arrogant and ignorant shits you could ever meet. I must stress though, such prisoners are in the minority. A large minority, yes, but none the less still a minority...

Apart from those two points, I don't think I've changed. I don't want to come to prison ever again, due to reasons I've already commented on earlier and that is why I won't break the law. My decision not to break the law is not because I am rehabilitated into a conforming, robotic, tabloid reading, minority bashing, Lucozade quaffing, 'must have' buying, 'smart-casual dressing', army hair cut wearing, socially acceptable 'kinda guy'! I hold the same views and beliefs and morals and principles

and attitudes I held before I came to prison on this sentence. I can never – will never – accept that the abuse and torture and exploitation and torment and murder of all animals is correct and beneficial and necessary, or whatever other bollocks excuse is fed to the readily brainwashed majority of the so-called intelligent species. Laboratories, breeders, zoos, circuses, safari parks, pet industries, slaughter houses, dairies, battery sheds, meat producers... They are all places of torture based on the myth of requirement and necessity; a myth perpetrated by those who wish to fulfil whatever sick fantasy they hold in their gutter minds, whilst also enjoying the added bonus of filling their bank account with tainted money. The judge in our case, during his pre-sentencing 'written-in-advance' summing up, accused us of being part of a terrorist group on the lunatic fringe of society! Then he sentenced us to 12 years each! TERRORIST? LUNATIC FRINGE? 12 YEARS? ANIMAL ABUSE, TORTURE, MURDER...? Yeah, you see where I'm going with that one? Judge, I think you completely misdirected your terminology! Hee hee! What a joke! Anyway, it's nearly over.

I hope you've enjoyed my ramblings, and to anyone fretting over certain comments I've written- try not to panic. They are just thoughts, opinions and emotions that I wished to share with likeminded people who I may not be able to contact for a long period. And for now my wonderful friends – THANK YOU for all the precious support these past six years, I love you all! (Sorry for my awful response times too) Take care and keep positive. To my prison friends – your day will come! Stay stubborn! Love yas! Big hugs and lotsa love, Kerry xxx

A message from Walter Bond to his supporters

Recently, I have come back into contact with my mother. She is very proud of me and calls me her "Warrior Son". I'm very happy to be corresponding with her again and happy that she's doing well. I sense that she could use a little moral support as she is dealing with not only my imprisonment, but my brother snitching me off. To quote my mother, "I hope your brother chokes to death on his 35,000 pieces of gold." My mother is a little brown woman of 61 years of age. She is an anti-civilizationist that lives in the Alaskan wilderness in a cabin, complete with a hand

pump and bucket for water and an outhouse. She lives with her husband Clay and their two wolves "Lakota" and "TâTé" (wind in Souix). They have no television, internet or electricity because that's how they like it. Please write her letters of support at:

Mickie Shaw
PO Box 1098
Anchor Point, AK 99556
U.S.A.

The Spanish 12 - Activism is not terrorism!

On the morning of 22 July 2011, 200 members of the Spanish Guardia Civil simultaneously entered the houses of twelve animal activists in various cities throughout Spain: Madrid, Vizcaya and Pontevedra. The majority of the activists who were arrested occupy positions of responsibility such as heads and spokespersons in the organisations Equanimal and Animal Equality. Others have actively worked for these organisations in the recent past in defence of animals.

Despite the fact that the activities carried out by these activists have always been peaceful, the police were deployed in the manner of an 'anti-terrorist' or anti-narcotrafficking operation; cordoning off the surrounding streets and going into some of the people's houses armed with guns. This took place in order to perform house searches, lasting several hours, in which both paper and electronic documents were seized including all the electronic equipment that could be found (including dozens of computers, hard disks, cameras and office equipment needed for the day-to-day functioning of the organisations). In other words, all our material related to years of work in defence of animals.

After the house searches, the activists were taken in police vans to Santiago de Compostela, Pontevedra and A Coruña, where they spent three days incommunicado in police cells on hunger strike, in protest against the police set-up aimed at damaging the image of the animal rights movement in Spain as they have already tried to do in other countries.

At this moment we became aware that the repeated media attention given to our reports of undercover investigations into farms breeding pigs, egg-laying hens, minks and chickens, and the lifting of the veil of secrecy that had been maintained in this country just a short while ago, had an effect. It had affected the parties interested in maintaining the status quo: the direct animal exploiters (companies) and the government - to avoid changes in consumer habits taking place which would affect the companies involved.

After two days in the police stations,

the twelve activists were presented several times before the magistrate over two days, where they were required to give individual statements. Various activists were required to give statements on various occasions. Three activists, Eneko Pérez, Olaia Freiria and Eladio Ferreira were remanded in custody following an arbitrary decision from the magistrate, while the rest were charged and released on bail. The Provincial Court, a superior authority to the magistrate, later revoked the decision of the magistrate and released the three activists on bail to await trial for the offences they have been accused of.

The arbitrariness of the magistrate in sending the three activists to prison without any evidence to link them to the actions for which the investigation was opened (a mass release of minks in the region of Santiago) and the undetermined date of release due to being on remand in custody, generated a great deal of anxiety for their families. It also generated a lot of uncertainty in the prisoners as to the amount of time they would spend jailed, without their family or social life and without being able to work in their professions: defending animals through activism. Since the first moment, we knew that we would have to come to terms with our roles as prisoners of conscience, in other words, people who are charged under unjust laws, or given sentences for offences they have not committed.

The length of our stay in prison would be determined as much by our support from society on the outside as the development of the judicial process and the magistrate who became more and more arbitrary in his decisions, under a rule of law where one is supposedly innocent until proven guilty.

Because of this, we created our own daily 'routine', in order to tolerate without too many problems the uncertainty of whether we would be in prison one month, three months or if we would still be in prison by winter. Reading, exercise and writing became part of our daily lives. From the moment we started to receive letters from all over the world in solidarity, responding to these letters took up hours. We are very grateful

for the support.

Our food was pretty bad, nutritionally insufficient, and any improvement was thanks to the VPSG. We would like to take this opportunity to thank this group for their attention to our case and their professionalism. After having spent 22 days in prison, Olaia, Eneko and Eladio are now enjoying their freedom – although also on bail with charges – like the other nine activists. It was a very difficult time for the colleagues of Animal Equality and Equanimal in liberty who had worked together with those detained, and especially for the families and friends of the three activists, as the police deployment, the statement from the Guardia Civil and the magistrate himself filtered details of the case to the press in an attempt to discredit these people and their organisations, and with this, hold back the advancement of the movement for animal rights in Spain.

Today, we know that we have been charged with various offences; nevertheless there is a gagging order on the process, and due to this, the total number of the people who will be accused together with the real reasons for the charges is information which we still do not have access to. We are waiting for the judge who is presiding over the case to lift the order and show us the evidence that supposedly exists against these activists.

In any case, it appears that some of these offences are related to the mass release of minks. However, those charged do not have any connection to these actions, which they have not carried out. These accusations are totally baseless.

To support the campaign, it is important to get informed via the web www.unitedagainstrepression.org and find out what is happening in Spain, as well as supporting the international events being organised by the campaign "United Against Repression", and organising benefit events to enable us to meet the enormous legal costs that we are facing.

Thank you.

Gregg Avery's letter July 2011



At the time of writing I've got 17 weeks left and have done 217, or to put it another way, I've 120 days left and have done about 1,500.

During that time I've been woken up at 2 am by the screams of someone who has found his cell mate hanging from the bars. I've talked people round from wanting to kill themselves and have seen people stabbed. I was recently asked if prison has affected me. The simple answer is Yes. It's made me stronger, wiser and fitter.

Throughout it all I've always known that, as a political prisoner, I am different and am treated differently. I don't expect anything else. Throughout history political prisoners have been treated differently and worse than murderers and rapists. It's wrong, but that's how it has been and how it is. My view is to accept it and to move on. I can honestly say that I sleep like a log and wake up every day happy. To me, those people who are prepared to go to prison for their beliefs are special people.

I'm proud of the way my co-

defendants have served their sentences with no complaints and lots of strength and humour. Also, I will never forget those who have been there for me. I will repay that debt.

This whole thing has been an adventure and beside me, every step of the way has been my brilliant wife Natasha, the love of my life. We always say about the mad things that have happened: "That's another story for the pub" Let's face it, it's a lively dinner party topic to say you've done a nine year stretch. Yeah – as the guests go "oh, is that the time already? Er, we must be going..." Ha! ha!

Recently one of the female kitchen staff was sacked for having a bit of slap and tickle with some of the prisoners. Judging by the size of her, the slaps must have felt like right-handers. I'm not one to cast aspersions... oh go on then, just this once. Let me put it this way. "The years have not been kind to her" - ha! ha! ha!

I'm 43 and can run 3 miles in 171/2

minutes. My resting heart rate is 44 bpm. According to the Times, under 60 bpm is very good and under 50bpm is impressive. Whenever I run with someone, they are run into the ground and at the finish I say "That's the problem with you meat eaters: you just can't keep up!"

When I was a kid, if we whined my dad used to say "Who are you?" Ha, ha! No, he used to say "Eh lad, when I were your age, I used to cycle to school through t' snow with a sack o' coal on me back whilst doing me homework on t' handlebars." Ha, ha! Think of the Hovis advert and you are about there.

Seriously, there is an old photo of a French Resistance fighter in WW2 in front of a firing squad. He is smiling and laughing in defiance at the firing party just before he is shot dead. Inspired by such bravery and determination, what else can I do but crack on with a laugh and a smile on my face.

Lots of love,
Gregg xx

Natasha Avery's letter July 2011

Hi everyone,

Only four months left to go now and amazingly all this is coming to an end – what an adventure it's been! I can honestly say that I have enjoyed the whole experience and feel lucky and rather blessed to have gone through it. I've always enjoyed intense experiences and challenges and going to jail is certainly up there with the best of them! I've met some wonderful women, some of whom have survived truly horrendous abuse and had such tough lives that it's amazing they're still alive, and some for who it is too much to bear and who have taken their own lives in prison. Prison really does teach you so much and my training by the Samaritans and time as a listener helping vulnerable prisoners has been very valuable and something I will never forget. I have definitely learnt that there are many reasons why people end up in jail, some of which are incredibly complex and go to the very heart of society. Everyone's experience of prison is different of course but I would say to anyone who may be facing jail, if it happens, embrace it and use it as an opportunity to learn and study and to get fitter and stronger than you were before. My body may have been imprisoned for over four years now but my spirit has soared free as a bird throughout all this and as I said to my probation officer, I have felt how I do about animals and cruelty ever since I was a child and that will never ever change no matter what.

That wonderful saying from St Matthew 'For many are called but few are chosen' has always had a deep resonance with me and I so believe that we were all destined to come together to save animals, people and the planet. The aspiration to make the world a better place comes from what is best in all of us. Whether it is our friend Helen saving a white stag and hind and seeing them reunited and trotting off together at the end of the day, to all of you who take in animals from rescues up and down the country who would be dead if it wasn't for you giving them a home, to the Tunisians who have opened their doors to thousands of refugees



from Libya and treat them as family, to brave women and men in China who went into the animal markets and freed hundreds of cats trapped in cages waiting to be sold and eaten, to everyone who every day by being vegan refuses to be part of a sickening industry which abuses and murders billions of animals, to every single person from all over the world who has ever saved a precious life and fought to make the world a better place, you are all brilliant and such

an inspiration.

I often think of activists and protestors all over the world imprisoned for their beliefs in conditions so appalling that none of us can ever imagine them, denied access to their lawyers and any contact with their families and loved ones, facing torture and even death. I think too of those in our own movement who have been murdered for trying to save

animals' lives, including Jill Phipps, Mike Hill and Tom Worby. They are a constant reminder to me that the price I pay for my activism and for the consequences of my actions is a small one in comparison and one I can, should and always will bear with fortitude.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to each and every one of you who has been there for us throughout the last four years. Your letters and visits and everything you have done to support us have been truly amazing and have kept us feeling strong and full of spirit. A special thanks to George and Shirley for giving a home to our four dogs when Gregg, Heather and I were arrested. You have given us peace of mind, as we know how happy, safe and loved they have been in your care. Many thanks to the Vegan Prisoners Support Group (www.vpsg.org) and the Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group (www.alfsg.org.uk) who do so much and work so hard

for prisoners. They have helped us so much in so many ways throughout our sentences and are excellent, long-standing organisations that really do need and deserve your support. Thank you to ARPS, and especially Lidia, for giving animal rights prisoners a voice and a forum in our movement, it is particularly vital in the current climate. Never underestimate how important supporting and writing to prisoners is. It is a lifeline to all of us and the highlight of our day. It sends out a powerful message that prisoners are an integral part of our movement, despite the state's attempts to cut us off from each other and silence us, and it also really infuriates the powers that be that we get so much support, so the more mail you send us the better!

Gregg and I will be on licence for four and a half years when we are released. Our next challenge will be our appeal in the European Court of Human Rights against the lifelong

bans on campaigning against animal experiments that Gregg, Heather and I were given when we were sentenced. Hopefully we will be successful in overturning them.

Throughout all this Gregg and I have supported each other, inspired each other, made each other laugh, loved each other and come out of it the other end fighting fit and stronger than ever. Being back together will be a dream come true.

Thanks for everything and here's to the future.

Lots of love,
Natasha
Xxx

'They thought they'd break our spirit. I don't think they realised what kind of people they were dealing with.'
Willie Corduff, one of the Rossport Five jailed for refusing to let Shell drill on their land in Ireland.

Steve Murphy's letter July 2011

Hello,

I want to thank all my FRIENDS and SUPPORTERS for the last year. It would have been so much harder without all the love and books, magazines and the occasional newsletter! I really love all the books you all have sent to me. Thank you so much! The money donations you have sent made it possible for me to stay in contact with my daughter and friends via email too, as well as buying a couple little things here and there from the commissary - which is poorly stocked with a lot of high sugar items but also has some decent bean, rice, and TVP items. The latter -sadly- is very high in sodium so I use it sparingly.

I have slightly more than 2 years left here and I am looking forward to seeing you all when I get home. I have heard of some really great and positive things happening all over the country this past year; Glendale, CA banning puppy mill puppies,

L.A. Co. hires a G.M. who is working to transition the city shelters to NO KILL rescues, people in the city spending their weekends and free time volunteering at animal rescues. Please keep up the great work! If



you have a couple hours of time when sitting around wondering how to spend them, please go volunteer at a rescue or shelter. The animals can always use a little extra love and other volunteers appreciate an extra hand cleaning, feeding, and doting on the cats, dogs, bunnies...

The animals and the earth appreciate all you are doing to make tomorrow a little bit of a better place to live. I always loved spending my weekends at a cat and bunny rescue; all their little personalities, quirks, needs and loves. There was Orbit who would suckle the sleeve of any shirt he was near when you held him and Molly who invited herself to any available lap and just wouldn't hear anything otherwise - if your lap was empty she was entitled to that space.

The milk board is doing more to push us to drink more pus, hormones, and antibiotics this week by paying for more commercial space on TV and in magazines by saying it's good

for PMS. The very offensively sexist ad shows a cowering man cradling several half gallon cartons of milk with a speech bubble which is supposed to be his partner screaming insults off camera view. Nancy Reagan (you will never hear me attribute anything ever again to

the Reagans) said it best: JUST SAY NO! Teach kids they don't need milk to be strong, teach women milk and breast cancer go hand in hand, teach everyone about the gross abuses and violations of the most basic animals rights that occur in dairy farms.

Thank You Everyone for everything you are doing! I look forward to seeing you when I get home.

Peace and Love!!!!

Steve

Animal Liberation: Abolition by Walter Bond

I am an abolitionist animal liberation activist and you should be too. How many more animals have to die before we stop being concerned with 'The Big Picture'. 100 billion? A trillion? How much more of our Mother Earth must be decimated and clear-cut before we draw a line in the sand or forest, as the case may be. I am not a scholar or politician. I am and always have been a street activist. You know, the street. That's where real revolutions are fought, not the halls of academia, where long after the smoke clears, will always pretend to have won what others fought, bled and died for. What I see creeping into the Animal Rights community here in America is a lot of exalted cowardice. That's not to say that there aren't a lot of amazing and selfless folks doing a lot of much needed work on behalf of animals. There most definitely is. However, as veganism has grown, so have the clingons and posers that think because they are on a vegan diet they know far more than they do about activism. I hate to rain on the parade, but doing nothing is still doing nothing.

I support veganism 100% because when everyone follows it strictly, it will be the end of animal use and abuse. That means it is fundamentally true, because its application is universally good for all. Personally, whether we argue that veganism has a profound effect or none at all, I adhere to it because I do not want to partake in the worst, deliberate holocaust of innocent of life in the history of the planet. That's called doing what's right simply because its the right thing to do. That being said, my veganism isn't saving 90 or more animal lives every year. The world's population is not static, its growing. On the day you or I go vegan, 100,000 kids get weened into



eating flesh as food. That is why it is ridiculous to sit around and eat vegan brownies and act as though you are saving the world.

The true abolitionist animal liberation activist is the person that not only confronts slavery and death in their own consumerism but also opposes it in the world around them. For abolitionists of every era before us, this has translated into being courageous, resisting the system, and accepting the consequences. Let's look at these one at a time.

Being Courageous

By courage I mean not succumbing to fear when the task at hand demands it. A simple and casual example of this is simply saying what an animal in a cage would want you to say. Far too often I have seen 'activists' fall into this "you have to meet people where

they are" school of thought. No you don't! How people react to the truth is not your responsibility. You cannot always challenge the status quo and be seen as part of it, all at the same time. The belief that animals exist for their own purposes and not human ends is diametrically opposed to current industrial society. A more extreme example of courage would be putting yourself directly in harms way for animals by opposing their oppressors. For example, in a home demonstration where cops and confrontation are bound to ensue, I would rather have one courageous and caring activist by my side that is willing to put her back into her beliefs than 50 cowards that like to play games with words and talk of 'The Big Picture' or the 'long term goals of our movement'! Animals are suffering and dying now. So we should be confronting and saving their lives now; its not very complicated. In order to be bold and unafraid, it helps

to learn to internalize the message. One trait of a coward is that their number one priority is their own absolute safety and comfort. Any tactic that threatens that is always reflexively seen as wrong no matter how effective it obviously is. Look at it this way, if it was you on the chopping block, would you want someone to act on your behalf or have a really interesting philosophical conversation about your impending doom and how we're gonna reform the way its done by the year 2045. Cowardice is not a virtue and courage is no vice.

Resisting the System and Accepting the Consequences

When you fight the system it is going to fight back. Depending on how effective you are, the oppressor determines the degree to which she will retaliate. By accepting consequences, I do not mean accepting government repression. What I am saying is expect resistance. No matter how 'well within your rights' you are, or 'opposed to illegal activity' you may be, you don't decide the resistance you will meet. Some cop, fed or agent does and they are nothing more than

security guards for private corporate interests. In a consumer society you have the right to purchase things and shut up. Conversely, the only true crime is messing with business as usual. When you brace yourself for government, state, or county chicanery, the element of surprise is gone and that is a powerful tool to take out of their hands. To a certain extent it is a compliment. If the security forces of animal exploitation think well of us then we should think worse of ourselves.

We cannot stop challenging the system. Until we see the changes occur in our society that we believe in, actions for Animal and Earth liberation must not only occur, but increase. There is not one all encompassing approach. Animal exploitation is not a single-issue problem, it is hydra-headed and multifarious. It encompasses many species and the Earth that is home to us all. So when I speak of resistance, I am not talking about one tactic or avenue. I am talking about the defiance that keeps our movement vital, energetic and an actual threat to the practice of interspecies slavery and objectification. Whether as writers, street level activists,

educators, philosophers, or just vegans, it's good and necessary to feel the immediacy and urgency of our beliefs and of the animals' pain and sorrow; without passion, resistance is just another bullword. As veganism and animal rights begins to take root in the public consciousness, it is imperative that the message not get lost.

I am incredibly happy with many of the gains over the last 10 years. Even as a prisoner, I am able to request and receive vegan food. But as the mainstream grows, so must the grassroots; else it becomes just another market for consumers, growing along side the standard diet of cruelty but never truly diminishing it. We abolitionist animal liberation activists cannot let advertisers turn veganism into a group of food-obsessed hypochondriacs, or animal rights into the philosophical debate society. These issues that we fight for are a matter of life and death for ourselves and countless others. Lets' start treating them with the seriousness they deserve and not like a hip new diet fad.

Animal Liberation, whatever it may take!

continued from page 7

Support Walter Bond T-shirt \$15 <http://www.supportwalter.org/Main/Shirt1.htm>

